

# National Environmental Research Coordination Group

## Terms of Reference

### Purpose

The main purpose of the National Environmental Research Coordination Group (NERCG) is to provide a cross-sectoral, national forum for the strategic coordination of environmental research in Ireland.

### Objectives

The objectives for National Environmental Research Coordination Group will be to:

- Facilitate and promote co-ordination between relevant public organisations in order to enhance the impact of environmental research in Ireland;
- Provide a forum for key stakeholders to support the effective transfer of knowledge generated by publicly funded research;
- Identify key research needs and emerging policy needs to inform the research strategies and priorities for environmental research in Ireland;
- Raise awareness and promote engagement with European and international activities related to environmental research.

### Added Value

The added value to membership and participation in the Research Coordination Group includes:

- Networking, collaboration and consultation between strategic partners throughout the research funding cycle;
- Promotion and facilitation of increased synergies and avoidance of duplication;
- Support and facilitation of increased communication, visibility and better dissemination for national research strategies;
- Provision of a platform for knowledge transfer and knowledge exchange of research outputs, and uptake for commercialisation;
- Opportunities to coordinate co-funding opportunities between the strategic partners, maximise the impacts of research funding, and to ensure that research programmes are relevant and responsive to current & new emerging policy priorities.

### Scope

The National Environmental Research Coordination Group will facilitate discussion pertaining to environmental research in Ireland, including funding approaches, strategies, priorities, outcomes, etc. Members may agree to engage as a group or with one another on specific initiatives, but it is noted that the National Environmental Research Coordination Group does not have any role in decision-making for environmental research in Ireland. The

Environmental Protection Agency will act as the secretariat for the National Environmental Research Coordination Group.

## Composition

The National Environmental Research Coordination Group comprises relevant Public Organisations, including research funding organisations, policy making actors (i.e., government departments) and policy implementation actors (i.e., state agencies).

Many environmental issues can have transboundary and/or cross-border impacts. Therefore, the Research Coordination Group(s) may invite contributions from relevant strategic stakeholders across the island of Ireland.

## Meetings

It is anticipated that the National Environmental Research Coordination Group will meet twice per year, usually in March and October. The EPA will circulate the schedule of meetings for the following year in December.

The National Environmental Research Coordination Group meetings are facilitated by the EPA. The group may decide to have additional meetings and establish sectoral groups depending on developments within the national/ European policy and/or research funding landscape.

The National Environmental Research Coordination Group is typically Chaired by the EPA but has the option to rotate the position to other members to promote and support partner engagement and inclusiveness.